

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 064809

P R 181030Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6247

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

JCRC UTAPAO RTAFB TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0693

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: MIAS IN LAOS

REF A STATE 064838 (171945Z MAR 76 NOTAL), B VIENTIANE 0686
(180510Z MAR 76 NOTAL)

1. THERE IS SET FORTH BELOW (PARA 3) TEXT OF NOTE I PROPOSE
TO LEAVE WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KHAMPHAY BOUPHA AFTER PRESENTING THE SUBSTANCE TO HIM ORALLY
DURING THE MEETING I AM REQUESTING FOR NEXT WEEK. WE ARE
REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT WITH KHAMPHAY THROUGH CHEF DE CABINET
SOUBANH SRITHIRATH WHO MET BOTH STAFFDEL KENNY AND CODEL
MONTGOMERY DURING THEIR VISITS IN DECEMBER, 1975.

2. WE HAVE CHANGED THE PHRASE "NOW THAT PEACE RESTORED"
TO "NOW THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED" TO CORRESPOND TO THE FORMU-
LATION GENERALLY PREFERRED BY THE LPDR AND, WE HOPE, TO
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AVOID STIMULATING ANY MORE INTENSIFIED PROPAGANDA CHARGES ON

ALLEGED U.S. SUPPORT OF THAI SUBVERSION IN LAOS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE FOLLOWING TEXT:

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON ITS DISCUSSION WITH LAO OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE ON DECEMBER 23, 1975. THE EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INQUIRE INTO DEVELOPMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE WERE SPECIFICALLY TOLD BY LAO OFFICIALS THAT THE LAO AUTHORITIES WOULD SEARCH FOR THE REMAINS OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION AS PART OF THE SEARCH FOR THE REMAINS OF LAO MISSING IN ACTION. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION THE MINISTRY CAN PROVIDE ON THE STATUS OF SUCH SEARCH EFFORTS AND ON ANY RESULTS SO FAR ACHIEVED.

THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL TO LEARN WHETHER THE FILES WHICH THE COMMITTEE TURNED OVER TO OFFICIALS OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAVE BEEN STUDIED AND WHAT FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE SPECIFIC CASES THE MINISTRY CAN PROVIDE. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON, AND ACCESS TO, CRASH AND GRAVE SITES.

BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OBTAINING AS FULL AN ACCOUNTING AS POSSIBLE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS MISSING IN LAOS, NOW THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED AND THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNIFIED, AND THEY VIEW THE MATTER AS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES.

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THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO REQUEST AGAIN INFORMATION ON MR. CHARLES DEAN, WHO DISAPPEARED MORE THAN 18 MONTHS AGO IN COMPANY WITH AN AUSTRALIAN, MR. NEIL SHARMAN. IT IS HOPED THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA IN WHICH MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN DISAPPEARED ARE BETTER THAN THEY WERE AND THAT THE MINISTRY MAY THUS BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THIS

CASE.

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING A SECOND TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL 16 AND APRIL 24, 1976, AT WHICH TIME ITS MEMBERS WOULD HOPE AGAIN TO MEET WITH LAO OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PERSONS MISSING IN LAOS. IF THE MINISTRY DOES NOT AT PRESENT HAVE AVAILABLE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED, PERHAPS THE MINISTRY MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER SOME SUCH INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE IF IT RETURNS FOR A VISIT IN APRIL.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGH CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT.

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